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VALIANT 2022

FEATURING...

BLOODSHOT

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG

NINJAK

AND MORE!

THE YEAR OF VALIANT

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THE YEAR OF VALIANT

FCBD SPECIAL

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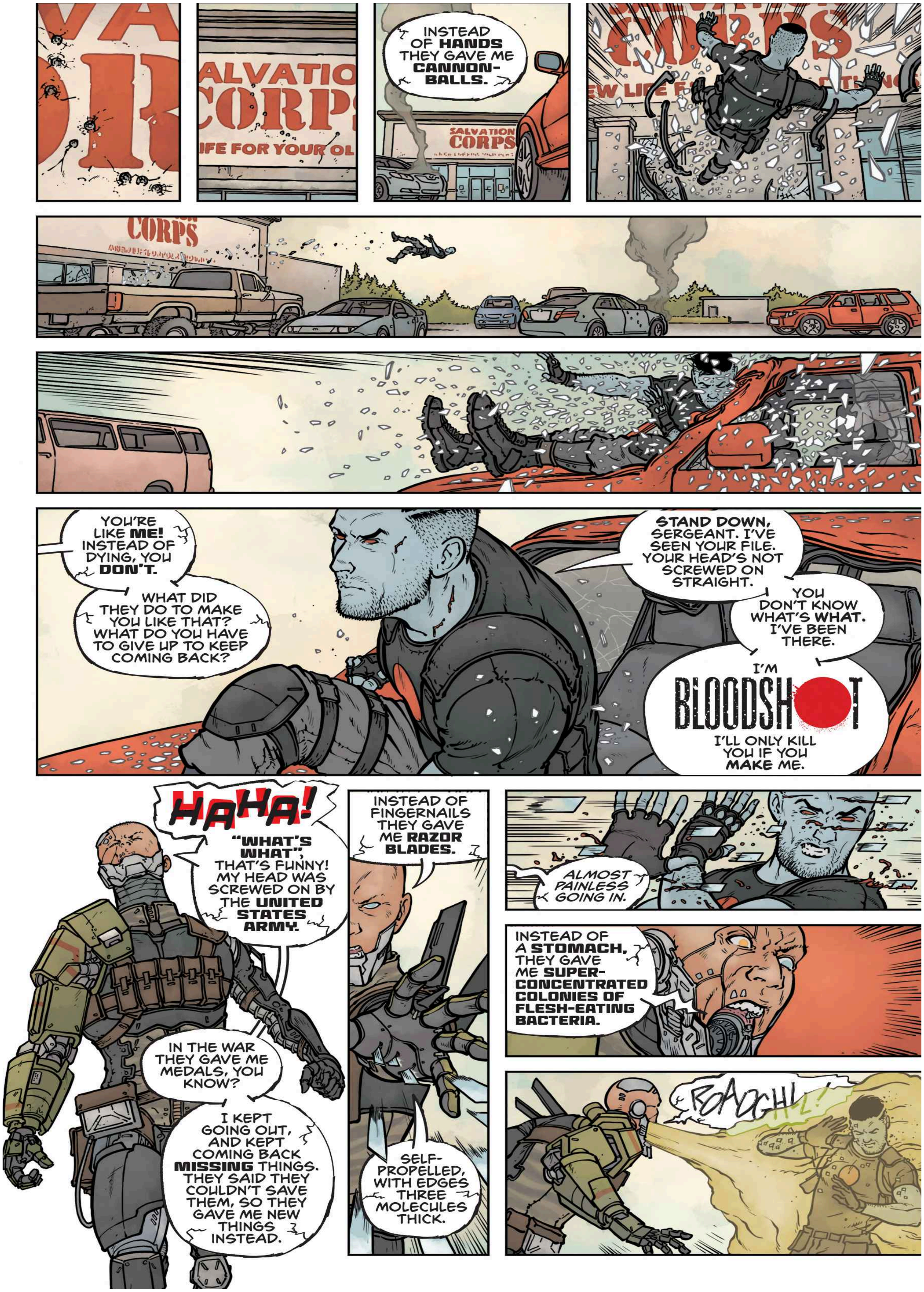
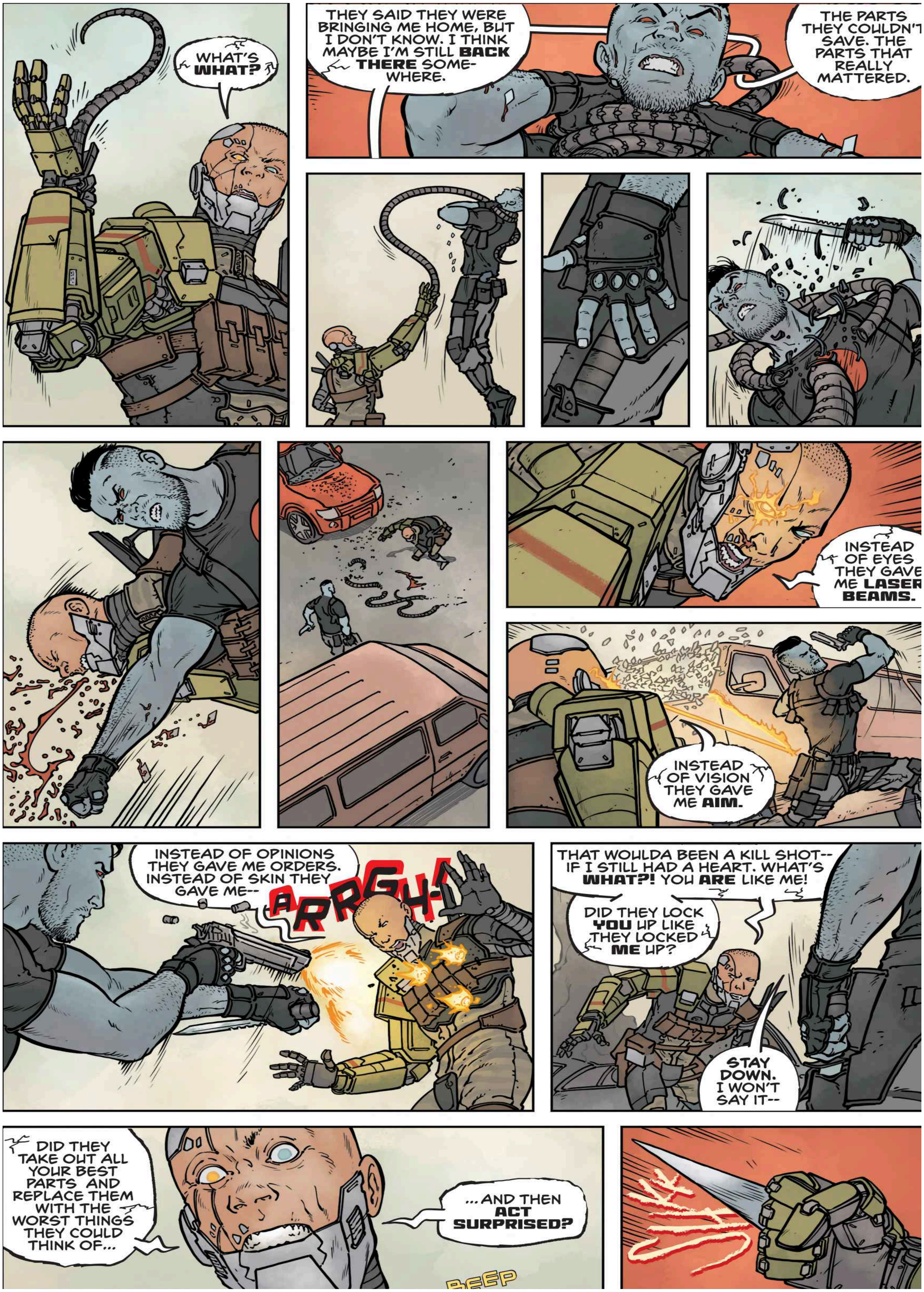
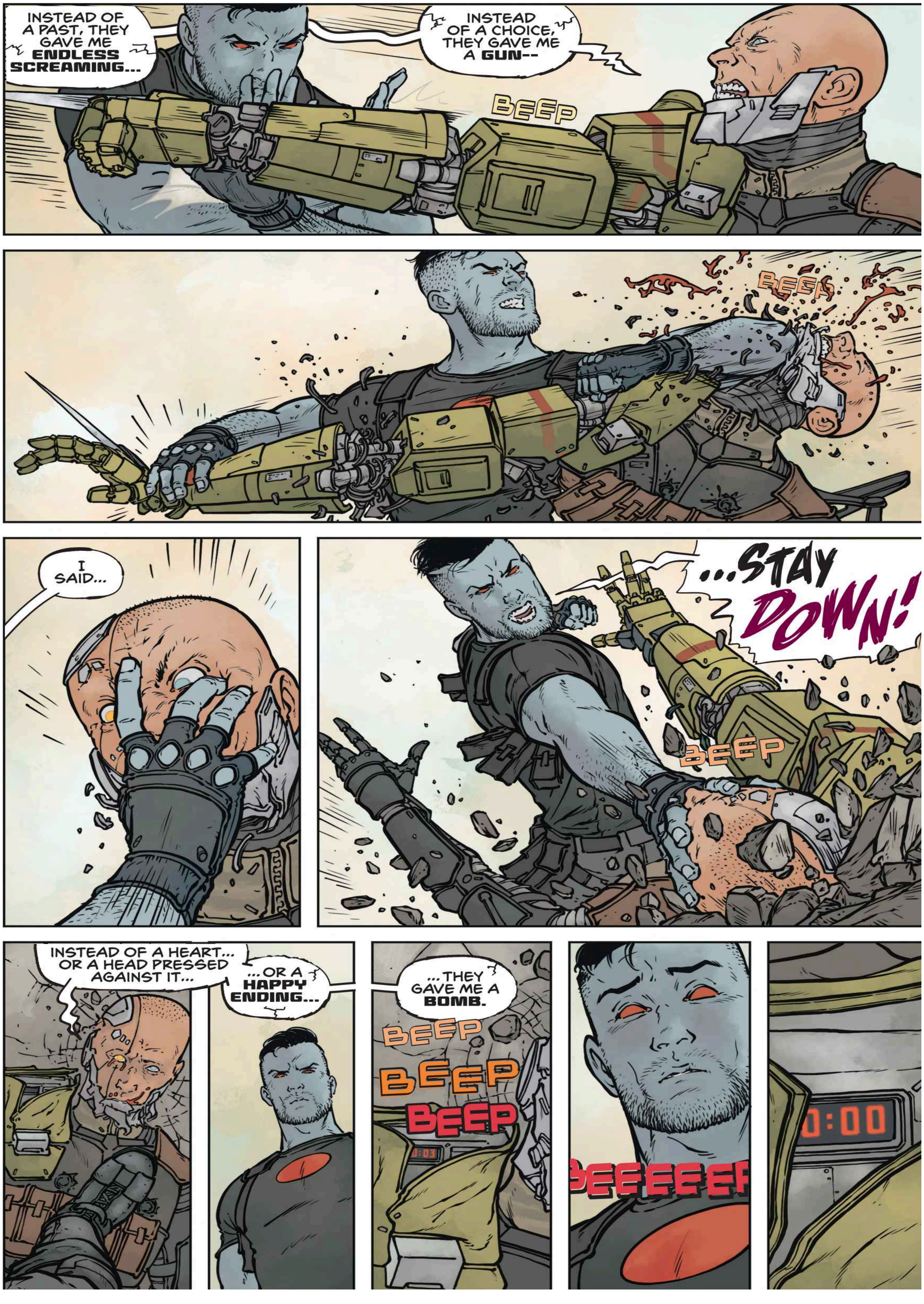
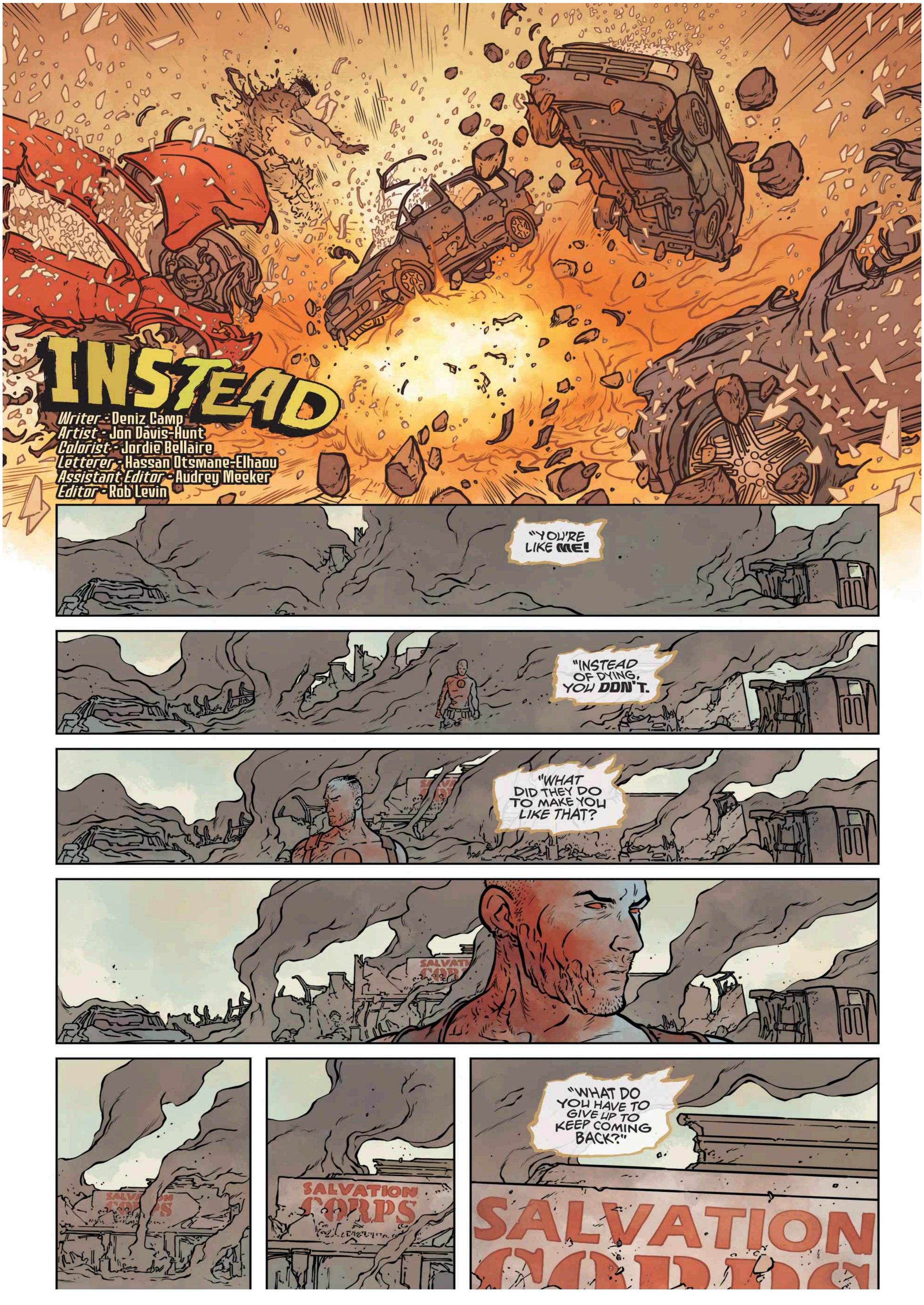

SALVATION CORPS
LIFE FOR YOUR OL
INSTEAD OF HANDS THEY GAVE ME CANNONBALLS.
SALVATION CORPS
CORPS
YOU'RE LIKE ME! INSTEAD OF DYING, YOU DON'T.
WHAT DID THEY DO TO MAKE YOU LIKE THAT? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP TO KEEP COMING BACK?
STAND DOWN, SERGEANT. I'VE SEEN YOUR FILE. YOUR HEAD'S NOT SCREWED ON STRAIGHT.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT. I'VE BEEN THERE.
I'M BLOODSHOT
I'LL ONLY KILL YOU IF YOU MAKE ME.
HAHA!
"WHAT'S WHAT", THAT'S FUNNY! MY HEAD WAS SCREWED ON BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY.
IN THE WAR THEY GAVE ME MEDALS, YOU KNOW?
I KEPT GOING OUT, AND KEPT COMING BACK MISSING THINGS. THEY SAID THEY COULDN'T SAVE THEM, SO THEY GAVE ME NEW THINGS INSTEAD.
INSTEAD OF FINGERNAILS THEY GAVE ME RAZOR BLADES.
SELF-PROPELLED, WITH EDGES THREE MOLECULES THICK.
ALMOST PAINLESS GOING IN.
INSTEAD OF A STOMACH, THEY GAVE ME SUPER-CONCENTRATED COLONIES OF FLESH-EATING BACTERIA.
ROAOGHH!


WHAT'S **WHAT?**
THEY SAID THEY WERE BRINGING ME HOME, BUT I DON'T KNOW. I THINK MAYBE I'M STILL **BACK THERE** SOMEWHERE.
THE PARTS THEY COULDN'T SAVE. THE PARTS THAT REALLY MATTERED.
INSTEAD OF EYES THEY GAVE ME **LASER BEAMS.**
INSTEAD OF VISION THEY GAVE ME **AIM.**
INSTEAD OF OPINIONS THEY GAVE ME ORDERS. INSTEAD OF SKIN THEY GAVE ME--
ARRGH-!
THAT WOULDA BEEN A KILL SHOT-- IF I STILL HAD A HEART. WHAT'S **WHAT?!** YOU **ARE** LIKE ME!
DID THEY LOCK **YOU** UP LIKE THEY LOCKED **ME** UP?
STAY DOWN. I WON'T SAY IT--
DID THEY TAKE OUT ALL YOUR BEST PARTS AND REPLACE THEM WITH THE WORST THINGS THEY COULD THINK OF...
...AND THEN **ACT SURPRISED?**
BEEP



INSTEAD OF A PAST, THEY GAVE ME **ENDLESS SCREAMING...**
INSTEAD OF A CHOICE, THEY GAVE ME A **GUN--**
BEEP
BEEP
I SAID...
...STAY DOWN!
BEEP
INSTEAD OF A HEART... OR A HEAD PRESSED AGAINST IT...
...OR A **HAPPY ENDING...**
...THEY GAVE ME A **BOMB.**
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
0:03
BEEEEEP
0:00


INSTEAD
Writer - Deniz Camp
Artist - Jon Davis-Hunt
Colorist - Jordie Bellaire
Letterer - Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou
Assistant Editor - Audrey Meeker
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"YOU'RE LIKE **ME**!
"INSTEAD OF DYING, YOU **DON'T**.
"WHAT DID THEY DO TO MAKE YOU LIKE THAT?
SALVATION CORPS
SALVATION CORPS
SALVATION CORPS
"WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP TO KEEP COMING BACK?"
SALVATION CORPS

CAMP   OAVIS-HONT   BELLAIBE   OTSMANE-ELHAOO

BLOOBSHOT'S MISSION STARTS
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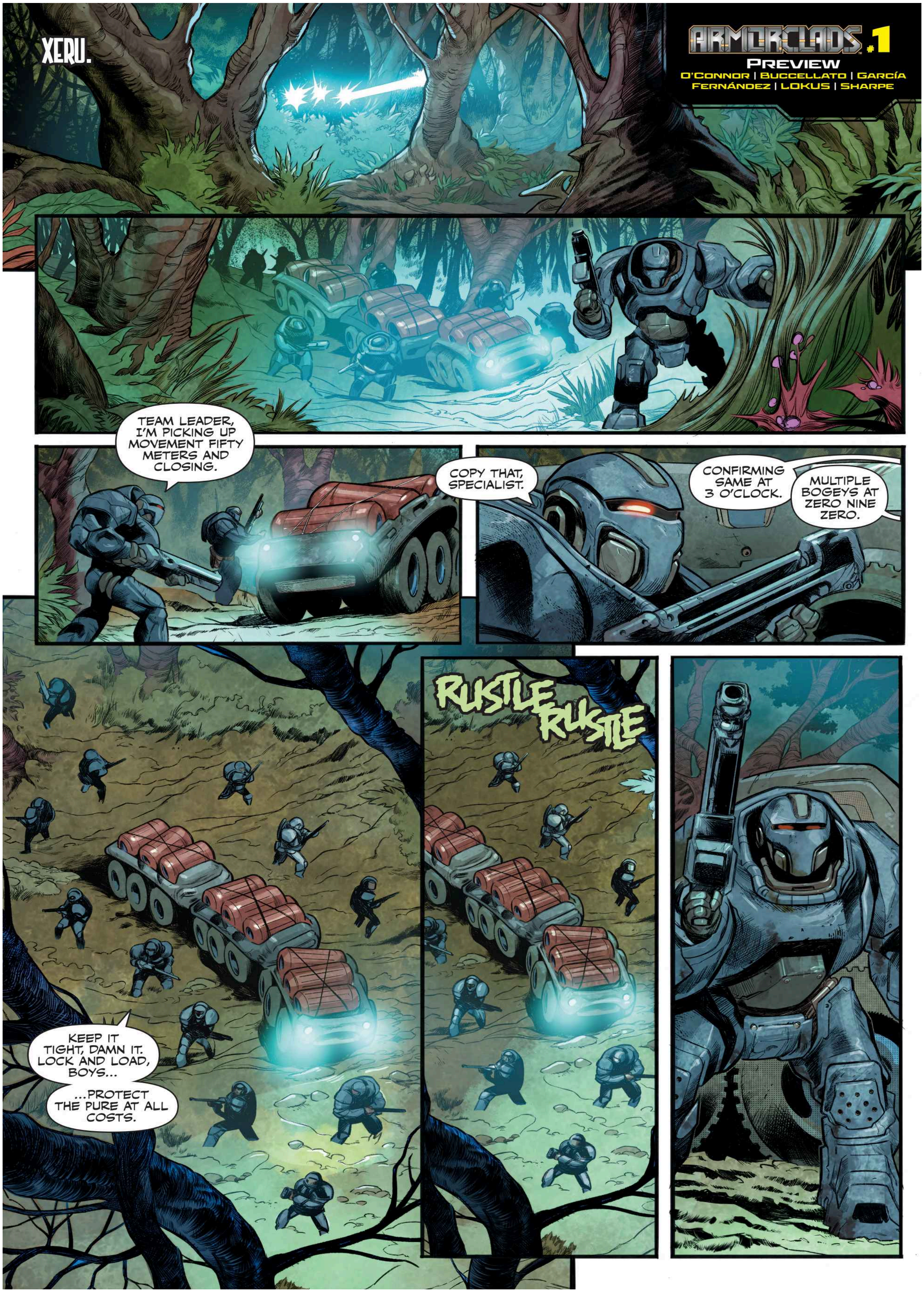
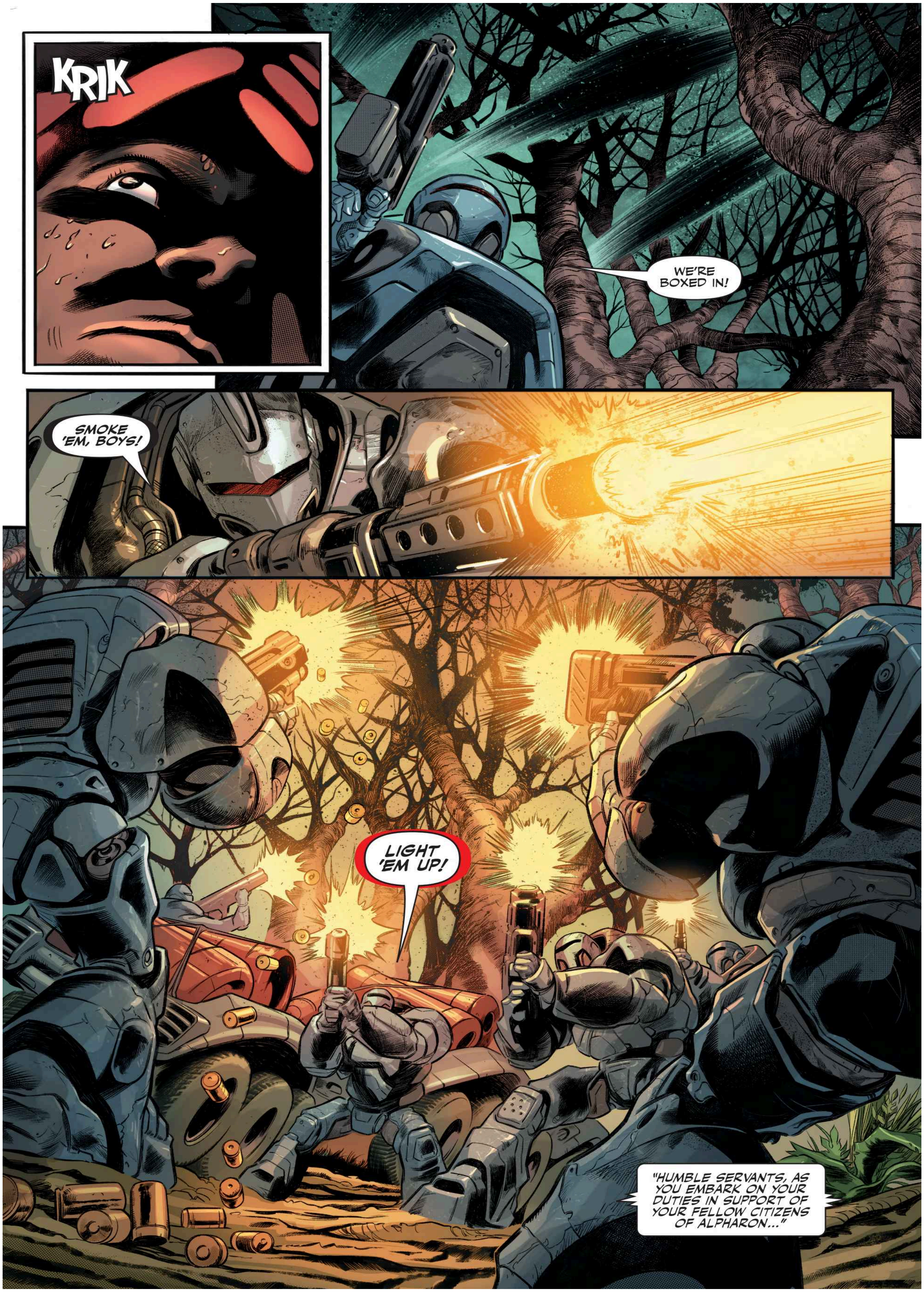
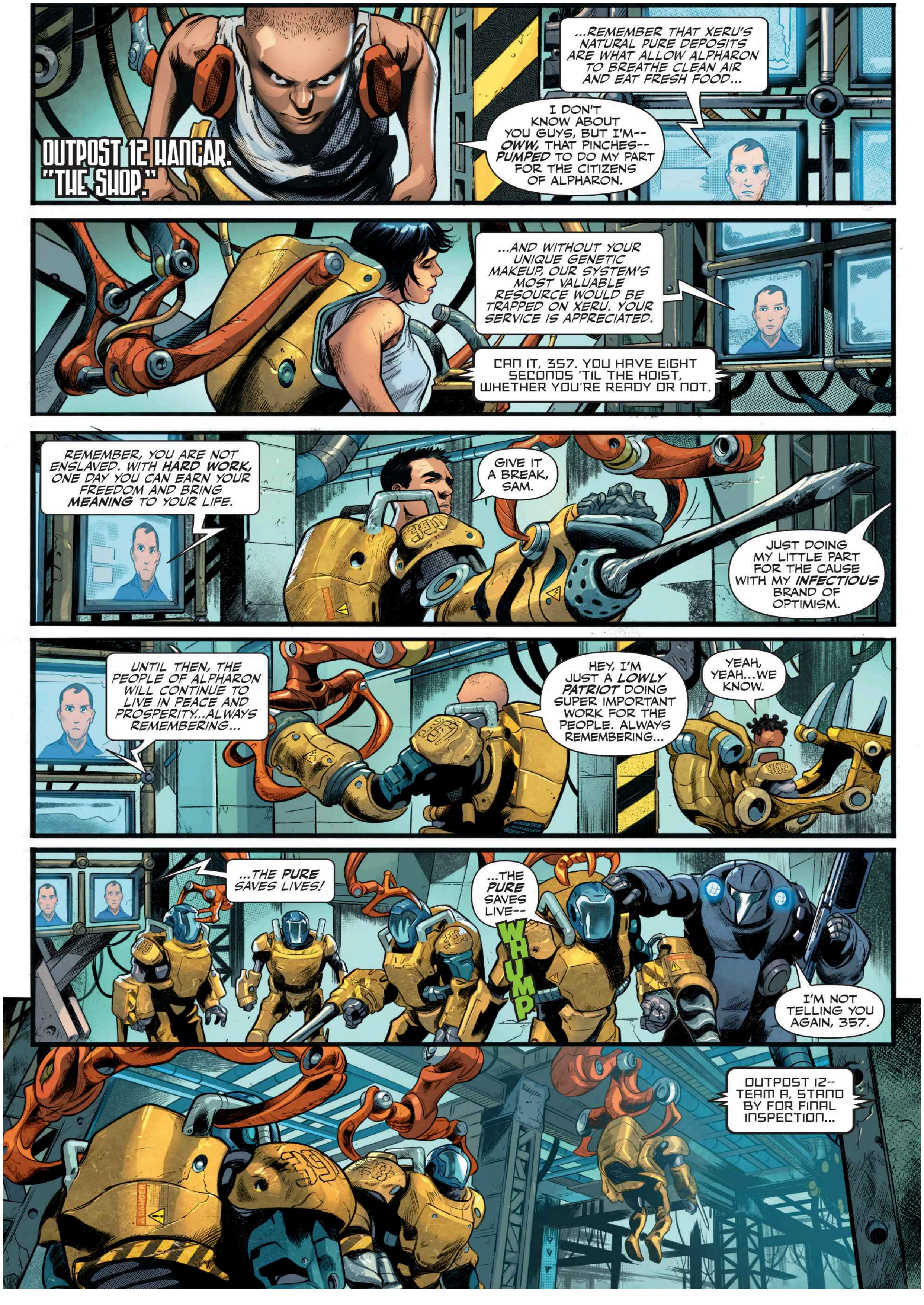
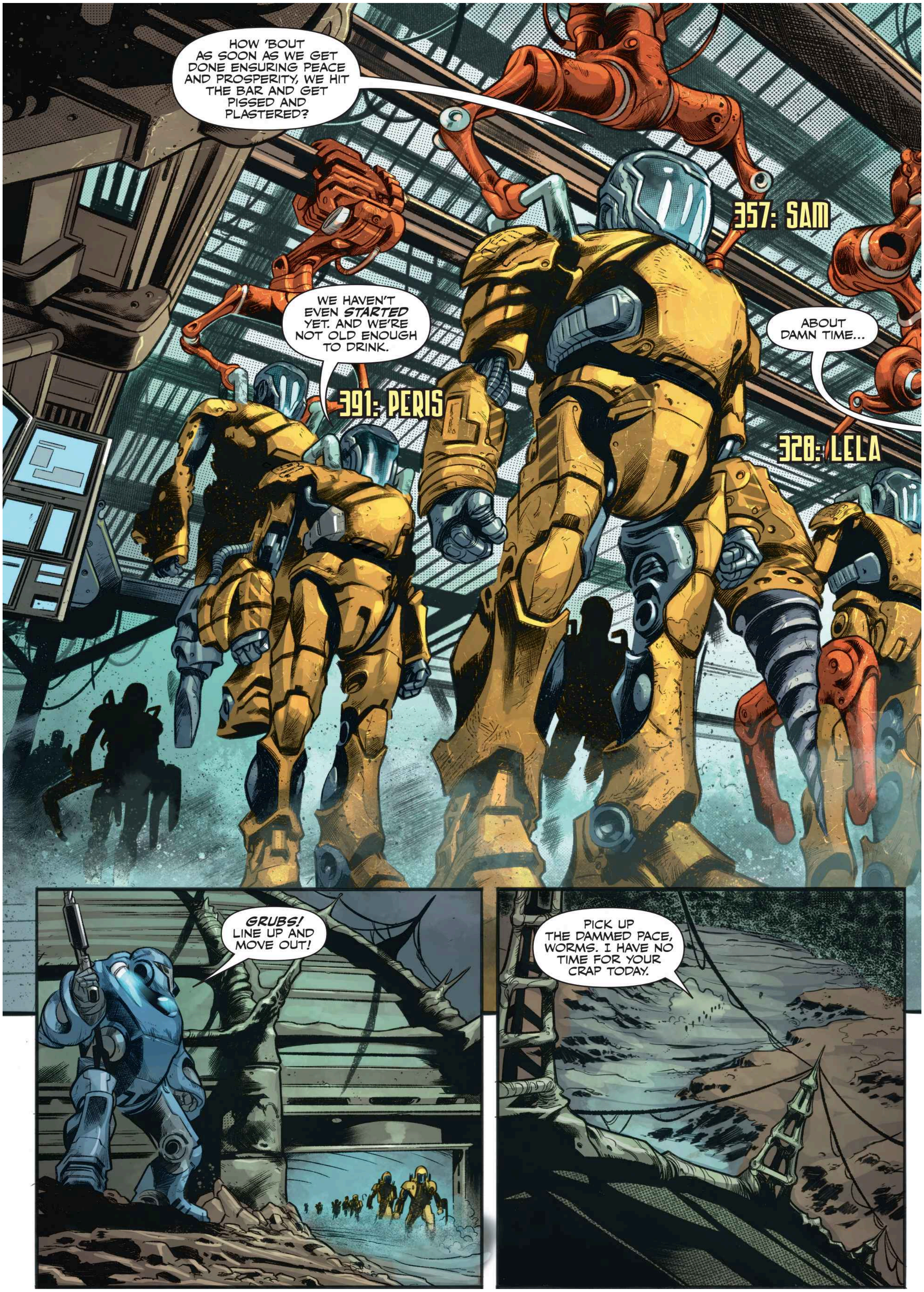
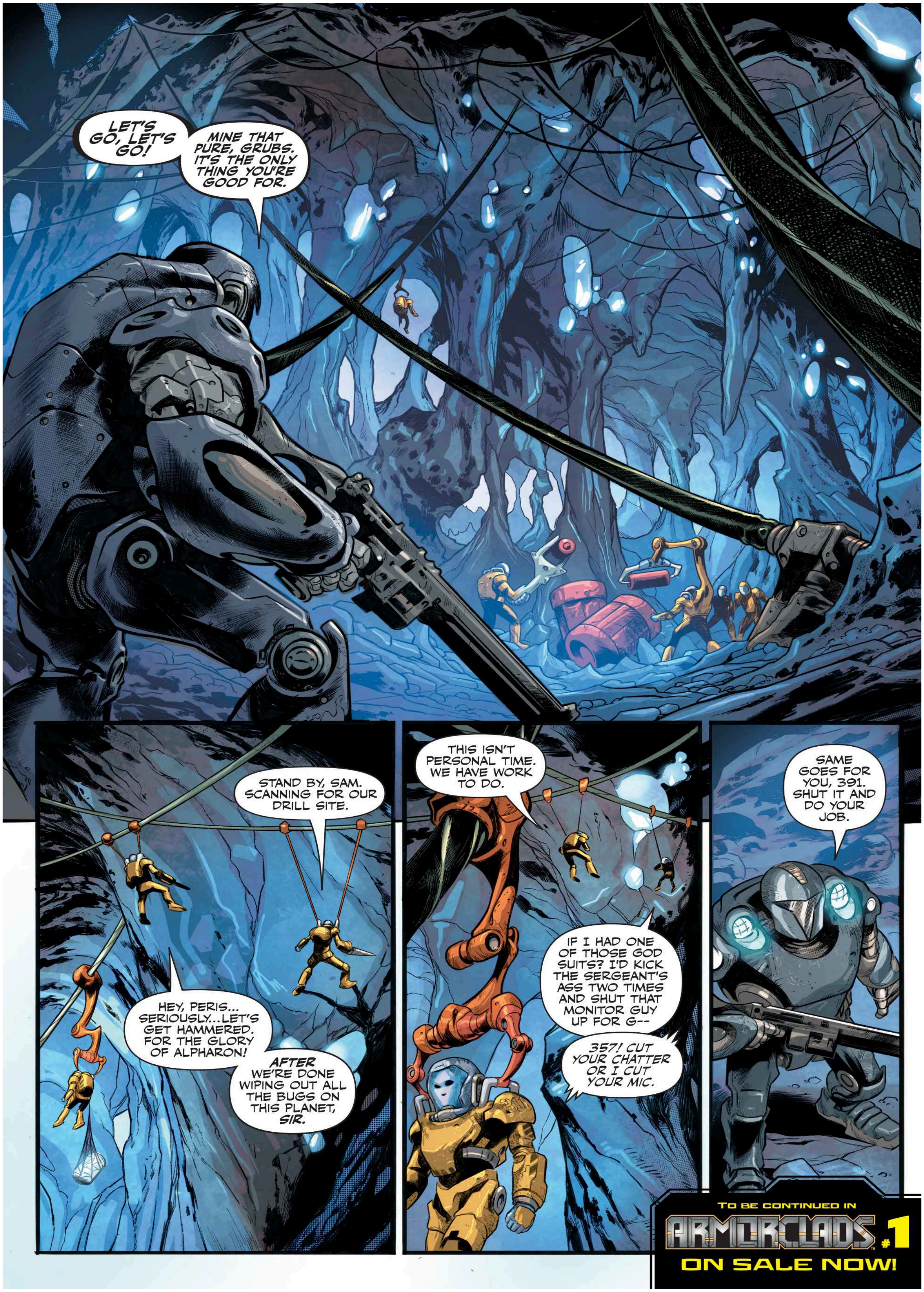

ARMORCLADS #1
PREVIEW
O'Connor | Buccellato | García
Fernández | LOKUS | Sharpe
XERU.
TEAM LEADER, I'M PICKING UP MOVEMENT FIFTY METERS AND CLOSING.
COPY THAT, SPECIALIST.
CONFIRMING SAME AT 3 O'CLOCK.
MULTIPLE BOGEYS AT ZERO NINE ZERO.
KEEP IT TIGHT, DAMN IT. LOCK AND LOAD, BOYS...
...PROTECT THE PURE AT ALL COSTS.
RUSTLE RUSTLE


KRIK
WE'RE BOXED IN!
SMOKE 'EM, BOYS!
LIGHT 'EM UP!
"HUMBLE SERVANTS, AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR DUTIES IN SUPPORT OF YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF ALPHARON..."


OUTPOST 12 HANGAR. "THE SHOP."
...REMEMBER THAT XERU'S NATURAL PURE DEPOSITS ARE WHAT ALLOW ALPHARON TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR AND EAT FRESH FOOD...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I'M-- *OWW,* THAT PINCHES-- *PUMPED* TO DO MY PART FOR THE CITIZENS OF ALPHARON.
...AND WITHOUT YOUR UNIQUE GENETIC MAKEUP, OUR SYSTEM'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE WOULD BE TRAPPED ON XERU. YOUR SERVICE IS APPRECIATED.
CAN IT, 357. YOU HAVE EIGHT SECONDS 'TIL THE HOIST, WHETHER YOU'RE READY OR NOT.
REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ENSLAVED. WITH **HARD WORK,** ONE DAY YOU CAN EARN YOUR FREEDOM AND BRING **MEANING** TO YOUR LIFE.
GIVE IT A BREAK, SAM.
JUST DOING MY LITTLE PART FOR THE CAUSE WITH MY ***INFECTIOUS*** BRAND OF OPTIMISM.
UNTIL THEN, THE PEOPLE OF ALPHARON WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY...ALWAYS REMEMBERING...
HEY, I'M JUST A ***LOWLY PATRIOT*** DOING SUPER IMPORTANT WORK FOR THE PEOPLE. ALWAYS REMEMBERING...
YEAH, YEAH...WE KNOW.
...THE ***PURE*** SAVES LIVES!
...THE ***PURE*** SAVES LIVE--
WHUMP
I'M NOT TELLING YOU AGAIN, 357.
OUTPOST 12-- TEAM A, STAND BY FOR FINAL INSPECTION...


HOW 'BOUT AS SOON AS WE GET DONE ENSURING PEACE AND PROSPERITY, WE HIT THE BAR AND GET PISSED AND PLASTERED?
357: SAM
WE HAVEN'T EVEN *STARTED* YET. AND WE'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK.
391: PERIS
ABOUT DAMN TIME...
328: LELA
GRUBS! LINE UP AND MOVE OUT!
PICK UP THE DAMMED PACE, WORMS. I HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR CRAP TODAY.


LET'S GO, LET'S GO!
MINE THAT PURE, GRUBS. IT'S THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOOD FOR.
STAND BY, SAM. SCANNING FOR OUR DRILL SITE.
HEY, PERIS... SERIOUSLY...LET'S GET HAMMERED. FOR THE GLORY OF ALPHARON!
AFTER WE'RE DONE WIPING OUT ALL THE BUGS ON THIS PLANET, *SIR.*
THIS ISN'T PERSONAL TIME. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
IF I HAD ONE OF THOSE GOD SUITS? I'D KICK THE SERGEANT'S ASS TWO TIMES AND SHUT THAT MONITOR GUY UP FOR G--
357! CUT YOUR CHATTER OR I CUT YOUR MIC.
SAME GOES FOR YOU, 391. SHUT IT AND DO YOUR JOB.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

ARMORCLADS #1

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HARSH PLANET. INCREDIBLE MECHS. THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES.
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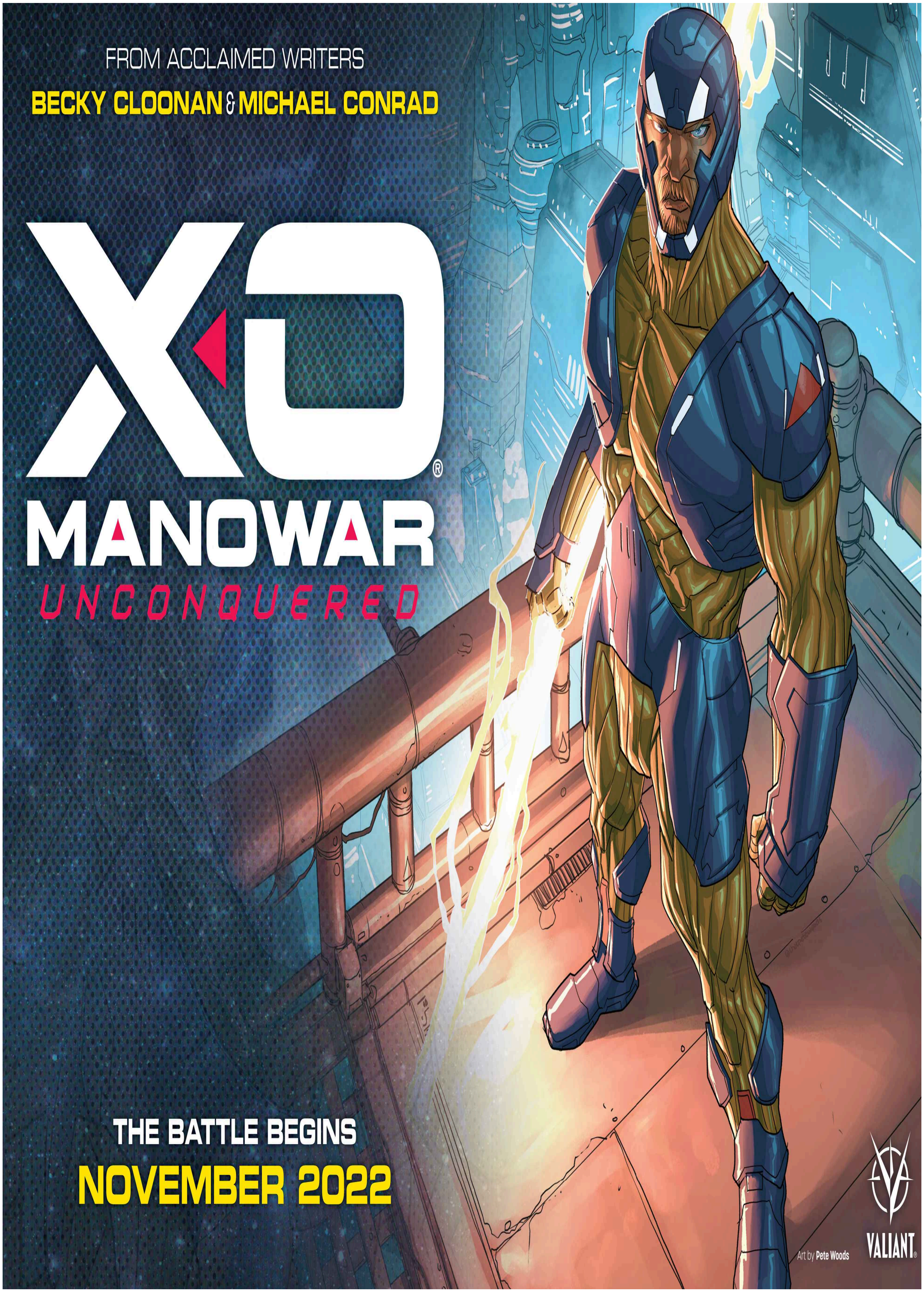
FROM ACCLAIMED WRITERS
BECKY CLOONAN & MICHAEL CONRAD
X-O MANOWAR
UNCONQUERED
THE BATTLE BEGINS
NOVEMBER 2022
Art by Pete Woods
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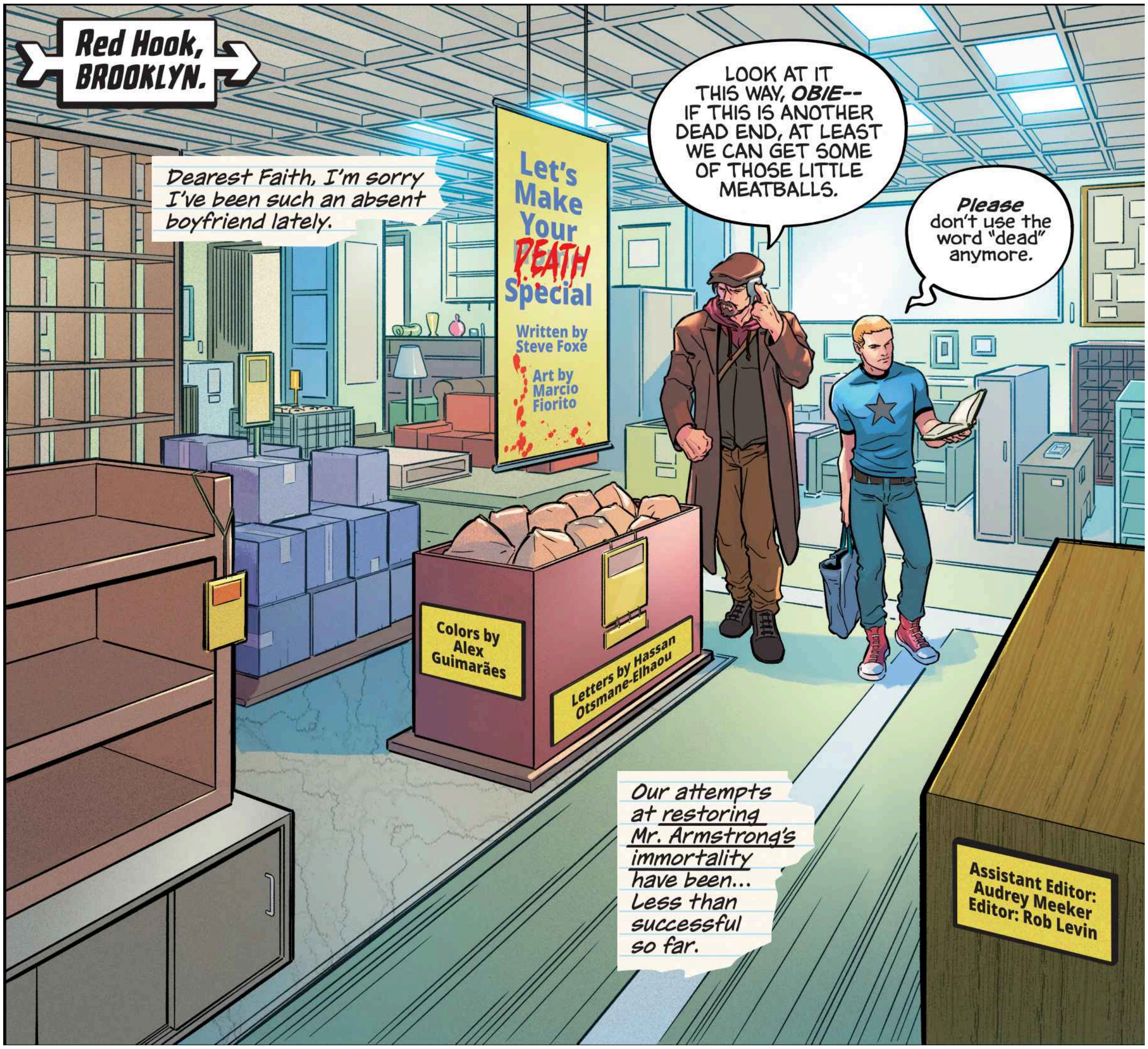
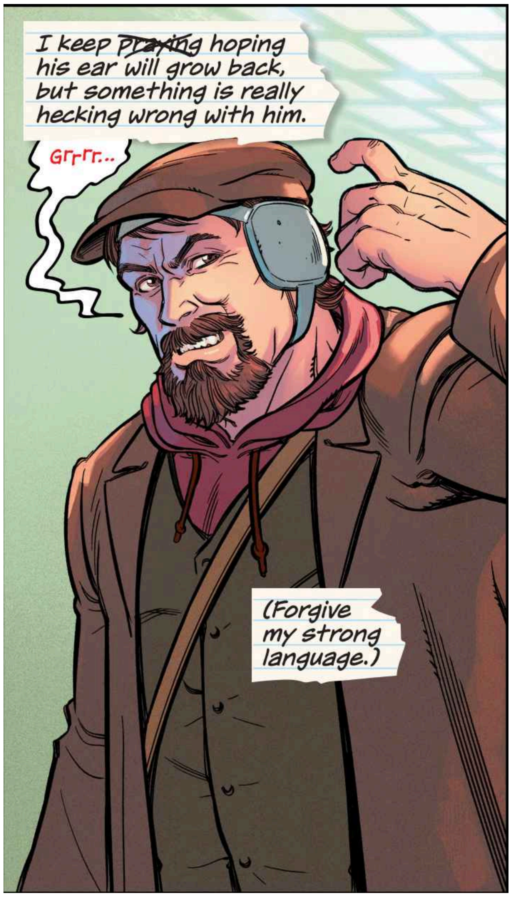
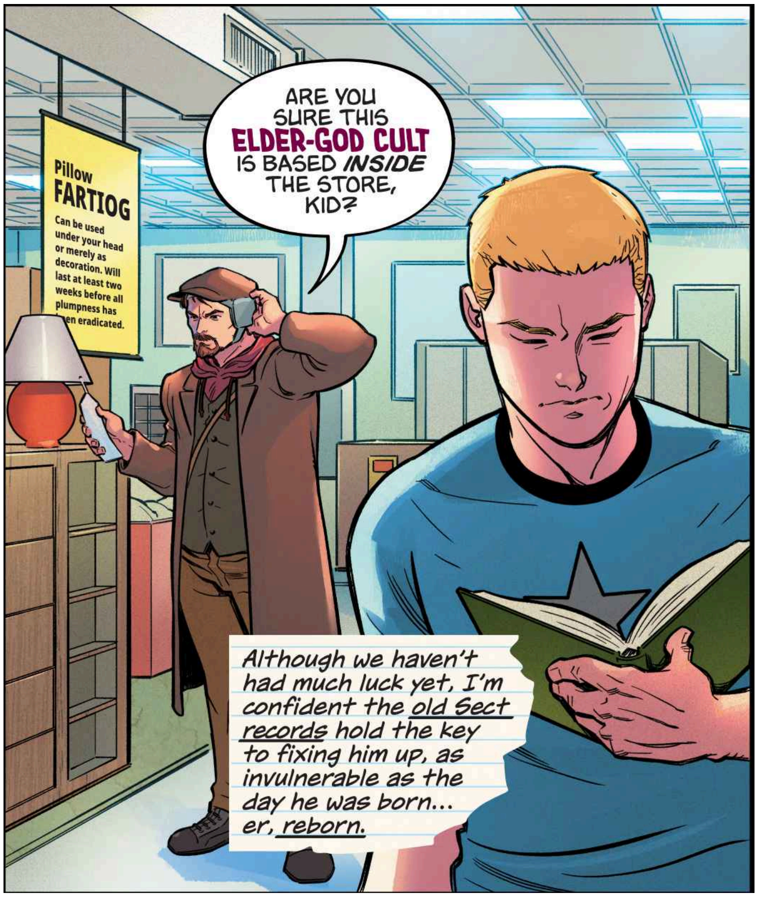
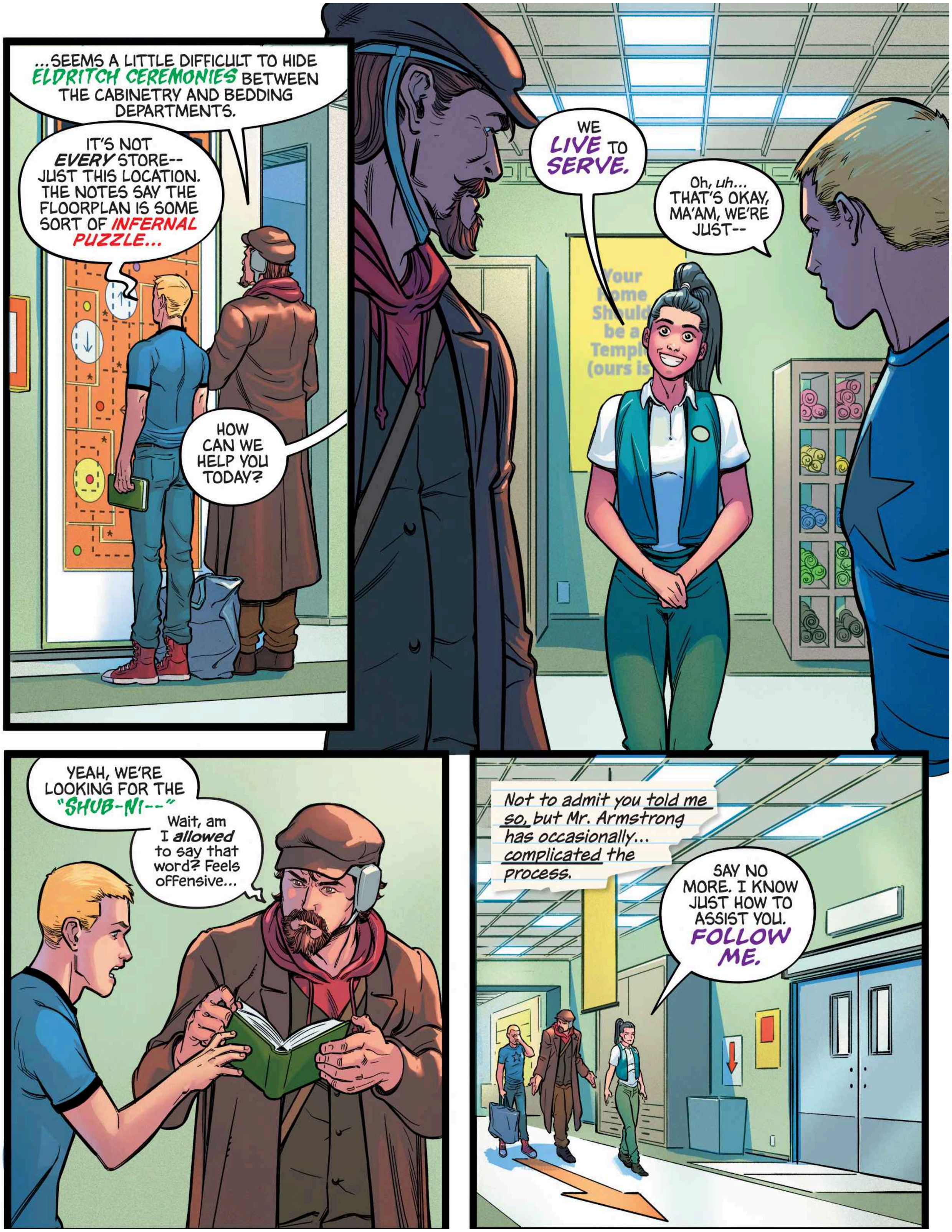
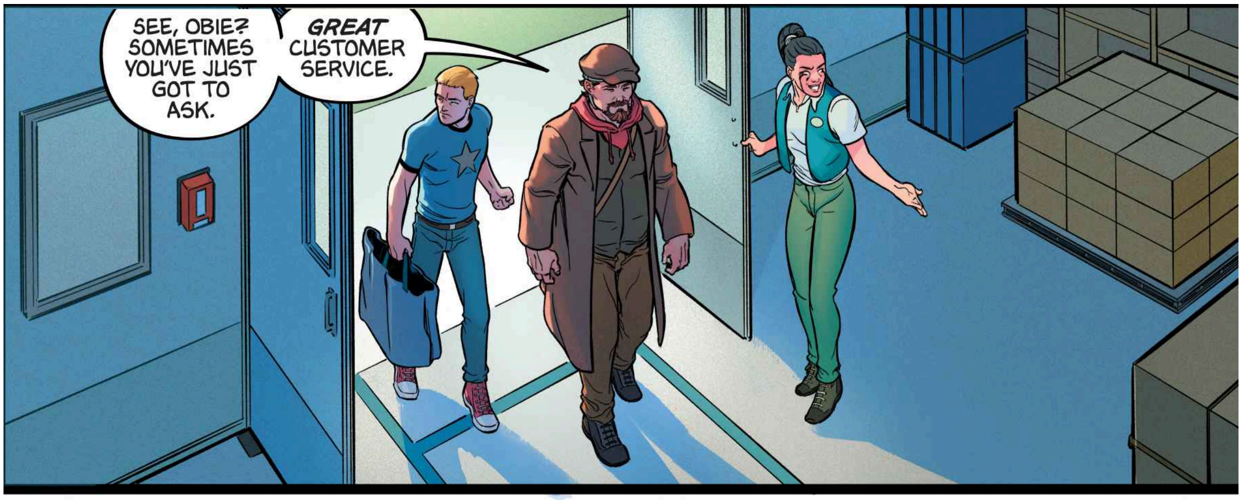
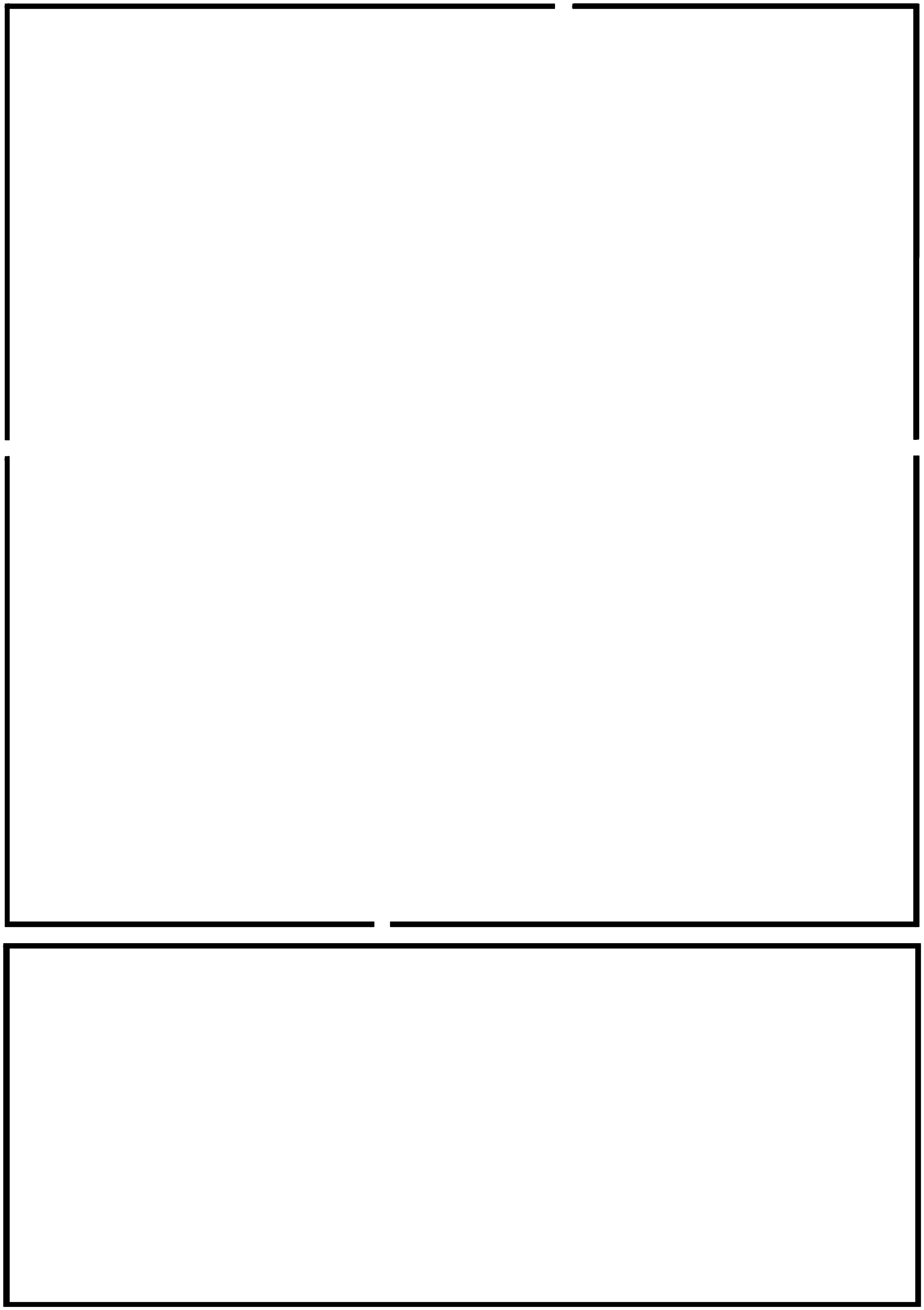

Red Hook, BROOKLYN.
Dearest Faith, I'm sorry I've been such an absent boyfriend lately.
Let's Make Your DEATH Special
Written by Steve Foxe
Art by Marcio Fiorito
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, OBIE-- IF THIS IS ANOTHER DEAD END, AT LEAST WE CAN GET SOME OF THOSE LITTLE MEATBALLS.
Please don't use the word "dead" anymore.
Colors by Alex Guimarães
Letters by Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou
Our attempts at restoring Mr. Armstrong's immortality have been... Less than successful so far.
Assistant Editor: Audrey Meeker
Editor: Rob Levin

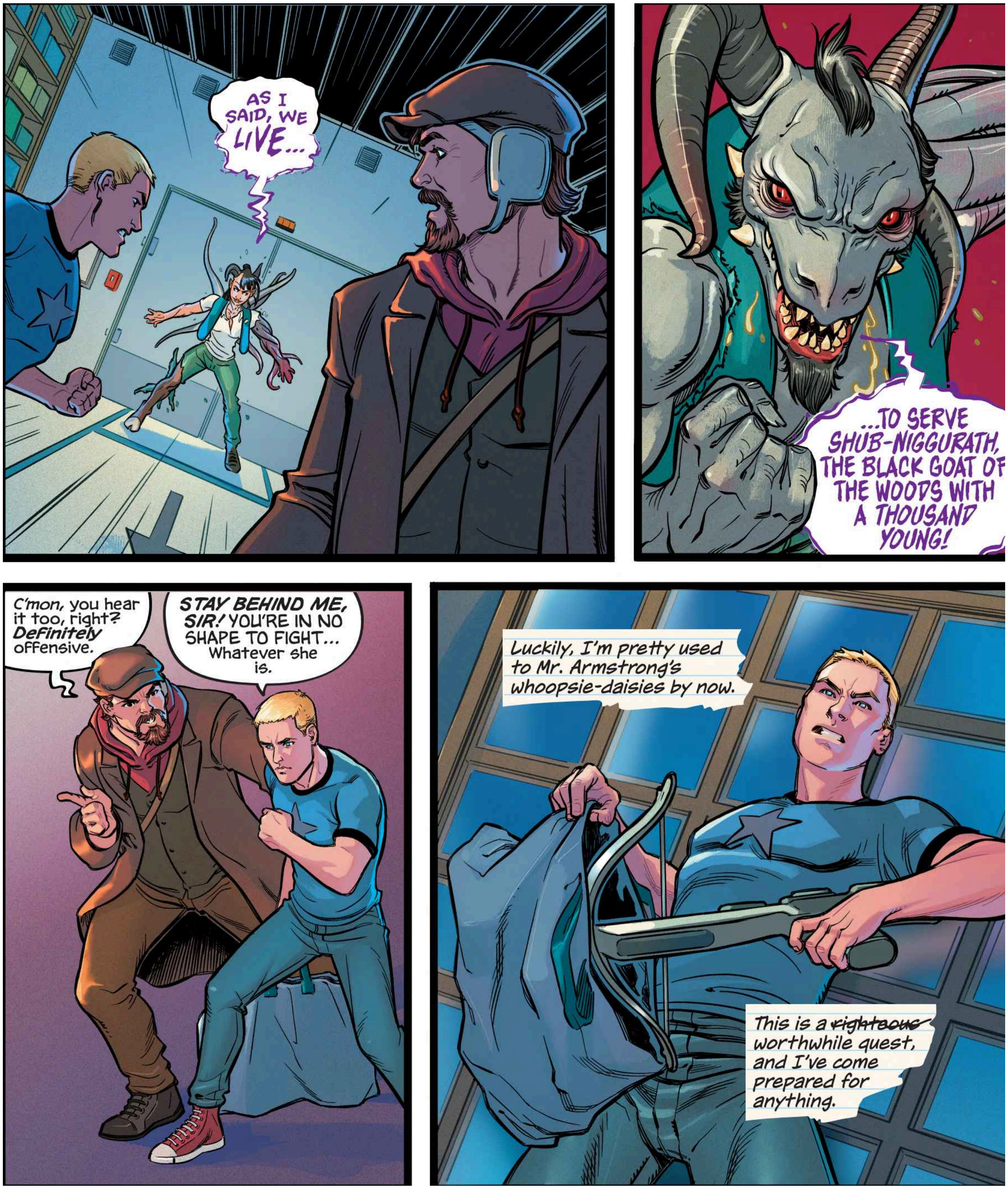

I keep ~~praying~~ hoping his ear will grow back, but something is really hecking wrong with him.
Grr-rr...
(Forgive my strong language.)

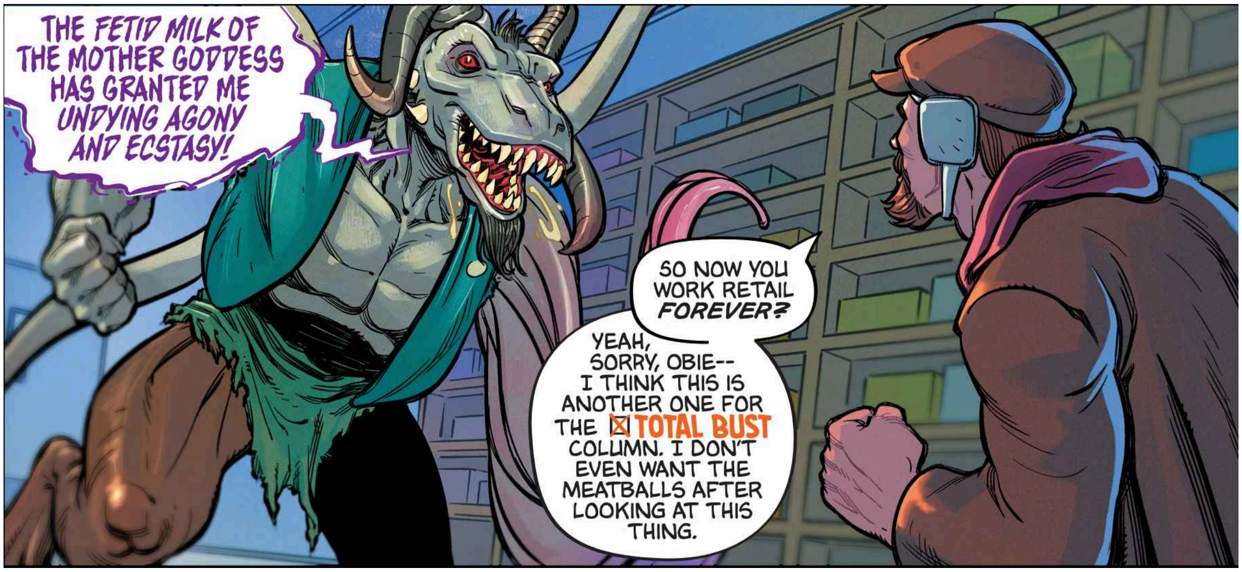

Pillow
FARTIOG
Can be used under your head or merely as decoration. Will last at least two weeks before all plumpness has en eradicated.
ARE YOU SURE THIS **ELDER-GOD CULT** IS BASED *INSIDE* THE STORE, KID?
Although we haven't had much luck yet, I'm confident the old Sect records hold the key to fixing him up, as invulnerable as the day he was born... er, reborn.

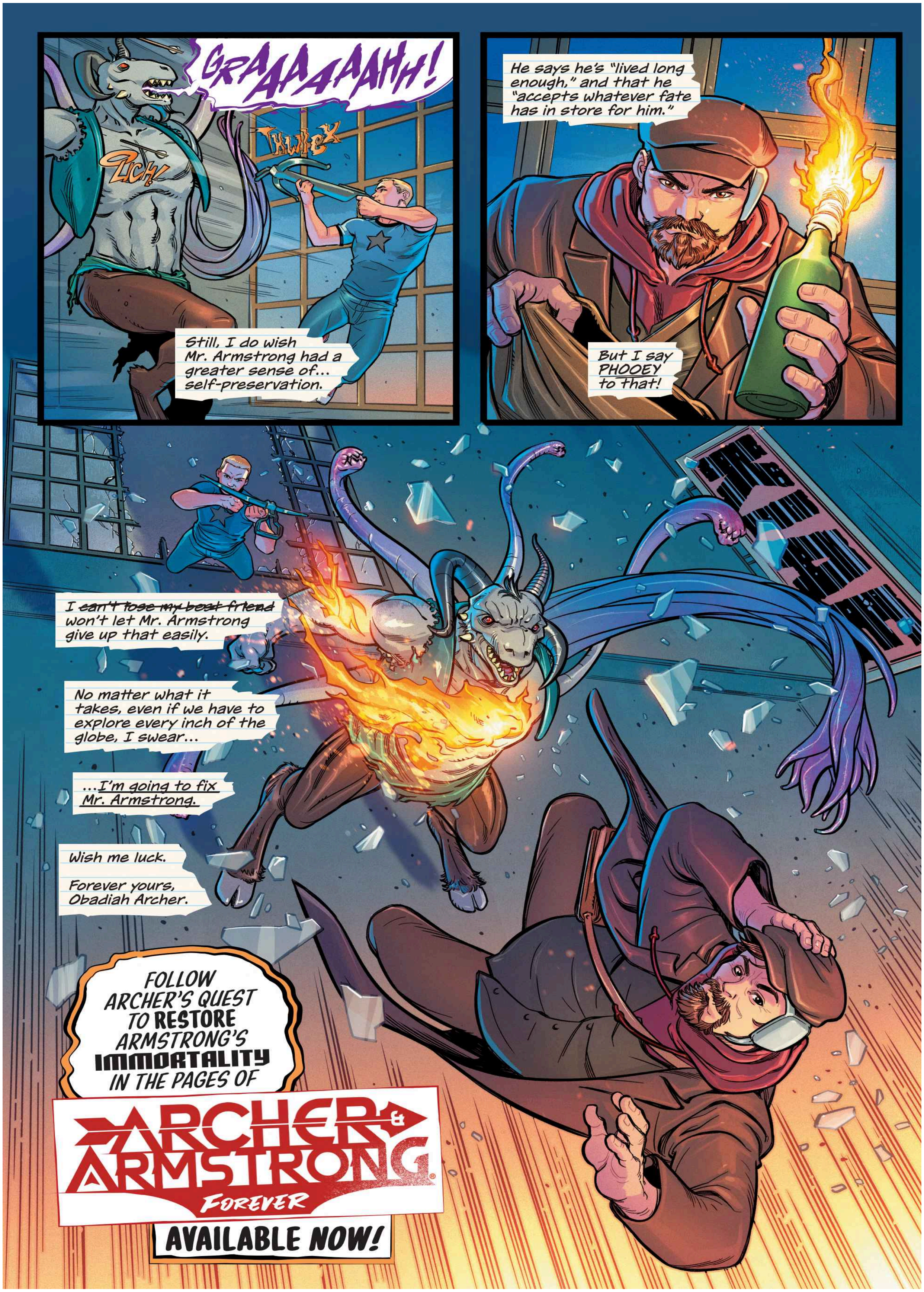

...SEEMS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO HIDE ELDRITCH CEREMONIES BETWEEN THE CABINETRY AND BEDDING DEPARTMENTS.
IT'S NOT EVERY STORE-- JUST THIS LOCATION. THE NOTES SAY THE FLOORPLAN IS SOME SORT OF INFERNAL PUZZLE...
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU TODAY?
WE LIVE TO SERVE.
Your Home Should be a Templ (ours is
Oh, uh... THAT'S OKAY, MA'AM, WE'RE JUST--
YEAH, WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE "SHUB-NI--"
Wait, am I allowed to say that word? Feels offensive...
Not to admit you told me so, but Mr. Armstrong has occasionally... complicated the process.
SAY NO MORE. I KNOW JUST HOW TO ASSIST YOU. FOLLOW ME.


SEE, OBIE? SOMETIMES YOU'VE JUST GOT TO ASK.
GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE.




AS I SAID, WE LIVE...
...TO SERVE SHUB-NIGGURATH, THE BLACK GOAT OF THE WOODS WITH A THOUSAND YOUNG!
C'mon, you hear it too, right? *Definitely* offensive.
STAY BEHIND ME, SIR! YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO FIGHT... Whatever she is.
Luckily, I'm pretty used to Mr. Armstrong's whoopsie-daisies by now.
This is a ~~righteous~~ worthwhile quest, and I've come prepared for anything.


THE FETID MILK OF THE MOTHER GODDESS HAS GRANTED ME UNDYING AGONY AND ECSTASY!
SO NOW YOU WORK RETAIL *FOREVER?*
YEAH, SORRY, OBIE-- I THINK THIS IS ANOTHER ONE FOR THE ☒ **TOTAL BUST** COLUMN. I DON'T EVEN WANT THE MEATBALLS AFTER LOOKING AT THIS THING.


GRAAAAAAHH!
THWICK
PLICH!
Still, I do wish Mr. Armstrong had a greater sense of... self-preservation.
He says he's "lived long enough," and that he "accepts whatever fate has in store for him."
But I say PHOOEY to that!
I ~~can't lose my best friend~~ won't let Mr. Armstrong give up that easily.
No matter what it takes, even if we have to explore every inch of the globe, I swear...
...I'm going to fix Mr. Armstrong.
Wish me luck.
Forever yours, Obadiah Archer.
FOLLOW ARCHER'S QUEST TO RESTORE ARMSTRONG'S IMMORTALITY IN THE PAGES OF
ARCHER & ARMSTRONG FOREVER
AVAILABLE NOW!

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG
FOREVER
FOXE
FIORITO
GUIMARÃES
OTSMANE-ELHAOU
B.CHANG after BWS
Art by Bernard Chang
BEST FRIENDS ~~FOREVER~~
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BOOK OF SHADOWS™

Darkness is descending on the Valiant Universe. As a terrifying threat from the past arises, the supernatural protectors of the world will have to unite against this fearsome foe. But will they be able to work together to stop this fiend… or is it already too late? Read on for an in-depth interview with BOOK OF SHADOWS writer CULLEN BUNN on building a new team in the Valiant Universe…

WHAT DOES EACH CHARACTER BRING TO THE STORY?

CULLEN BUNN: With a team book like this, my hope is that each character has something of an unexpected quality, something surprising for the readers, even if the character makes perfect sense for the book. SHADOWMAN, obviously, fits right in with a supernatural team, but he's not accustomed to working with others like this, and his connection to the new character, Persephone, paints him in a completely different light. Persephone, of course, will be a point of contention, especially considering her origins, and she will cause some strife within the team.

PUNK MAMBO is such a rebel that the very idea of working on a team rubs her the wrong way. DOCTOR MIRAGE hasn't been seen a lot recently, and what she wants in this story should be eye-opening. The ETERNAL WARRIOR is perhaps the odd duck, but he has a real connection to the initial threat our team struggles with. All this is aside from their power sets and abilities.

Each character brings something exciting and visual and, let's face it, cool to the team. But it will be in the interactions and character moments that their value to the book becomes evident.

WHAT IS THE THREAT THAT IS UNITING THESE CHARACTERS?

CULLEN: Oh, wow! How much am I allowed to say? There is a new villain, someone never seen before, who is awakening in the Valiant Universe. EXARCH FANE is the name. He's connected to the titular Book of Shadows, and he is powerful enough to consume the entire world.

WHY SHOULD VALIANT FANS BE EXCITED ABOUT BOOK OF SHADOWS? AND HOW IS IT ACCESSIBLE FOR NEW FANS?

CULLEN: The book will be readily accessible to new fans. It's the start of something new, the introduction of characters who are coming together, and we'll give you all the details you need to enjoy the story. Longtime fans, though, are in for a treat, too. They get to see an oddball team of Valiant characters interacting with one another like never before. I mean, I feel like just saying, "The Eternal Warrior and Punk Mambo fight a pack of demonic vampires" should be enough to get old school Valiant fans excited.

HOW DOES THE VALIANT UNIVERSE STAND APART FROM OTHER SHARED UNIVERSES?

CULLEN: The Valiant Universe is a little more grounded than a lot of comic book universes, which makes the heroes of the world easy pickings for an outlandish, otherworldly threat like Exarch Fane.

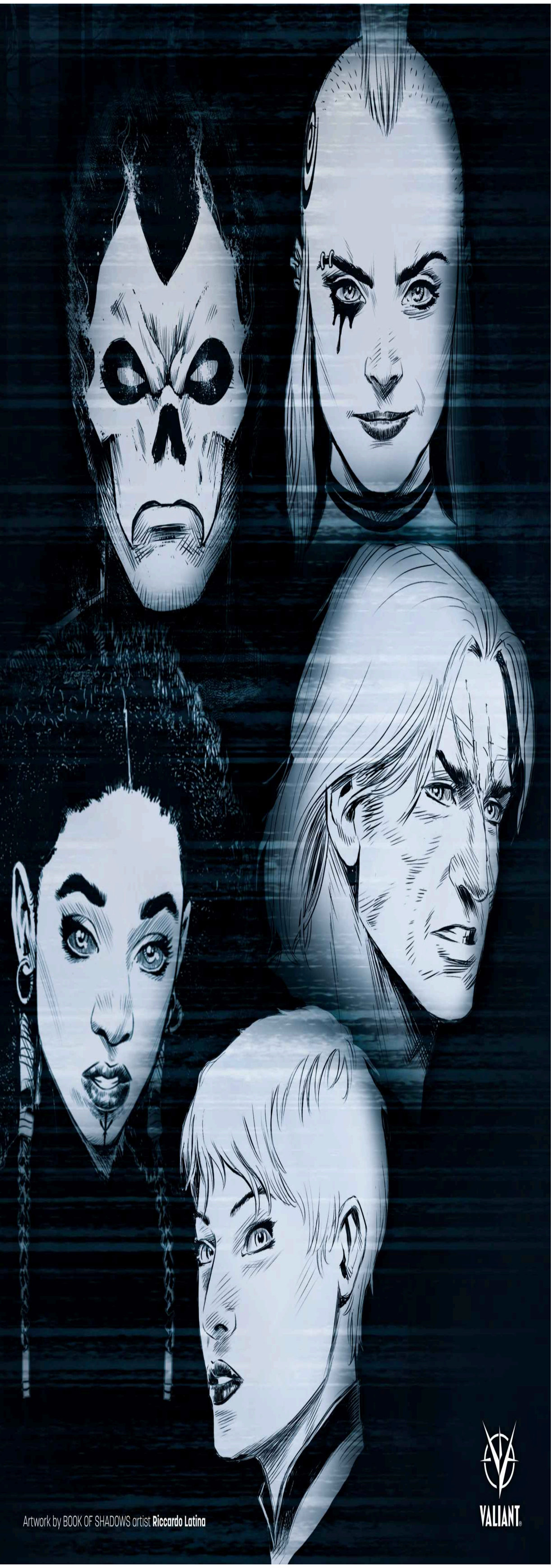
ARTIST RICCARDO LATINA IS BRINGING THIS STORY TO LIFE. WHY IS HE THE PERFECT FIT FOR THIS TALE?

CULLEN: I couldn't be more excited for Riccardo's work on this book. He combines superheroics and supernatural horror so well. Action and horror. Look at the character designs he has done for this book!

DESCRIBE BOOK OF SHADOWS IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS.

CULLEN: Exarch Fane wants our blood!

BOOK OF SHADOWS #1 goes on sale July and is now available for pre-order.



Artwork by BOOK OF SHADOWS artist **Riccardo Latina**

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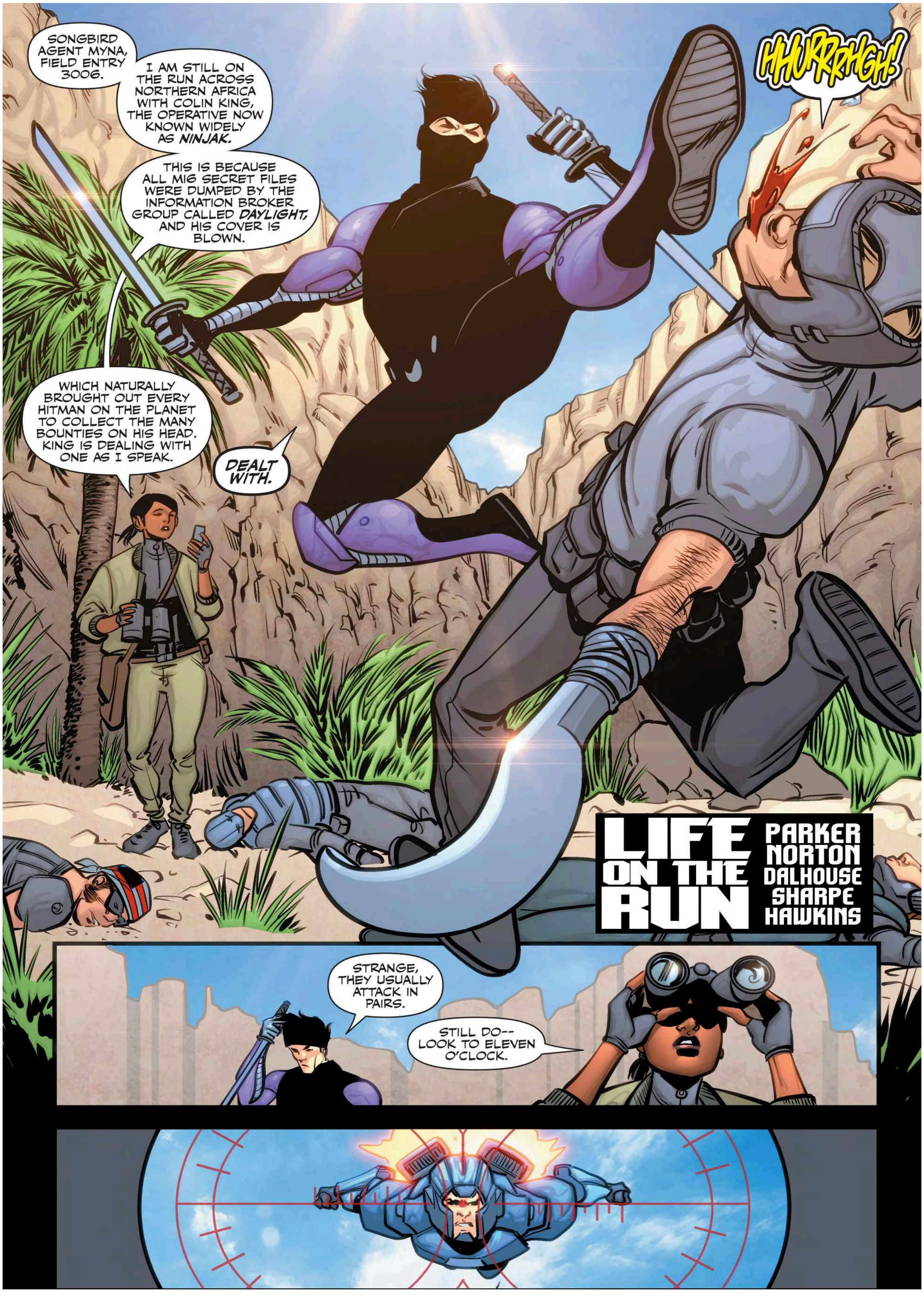
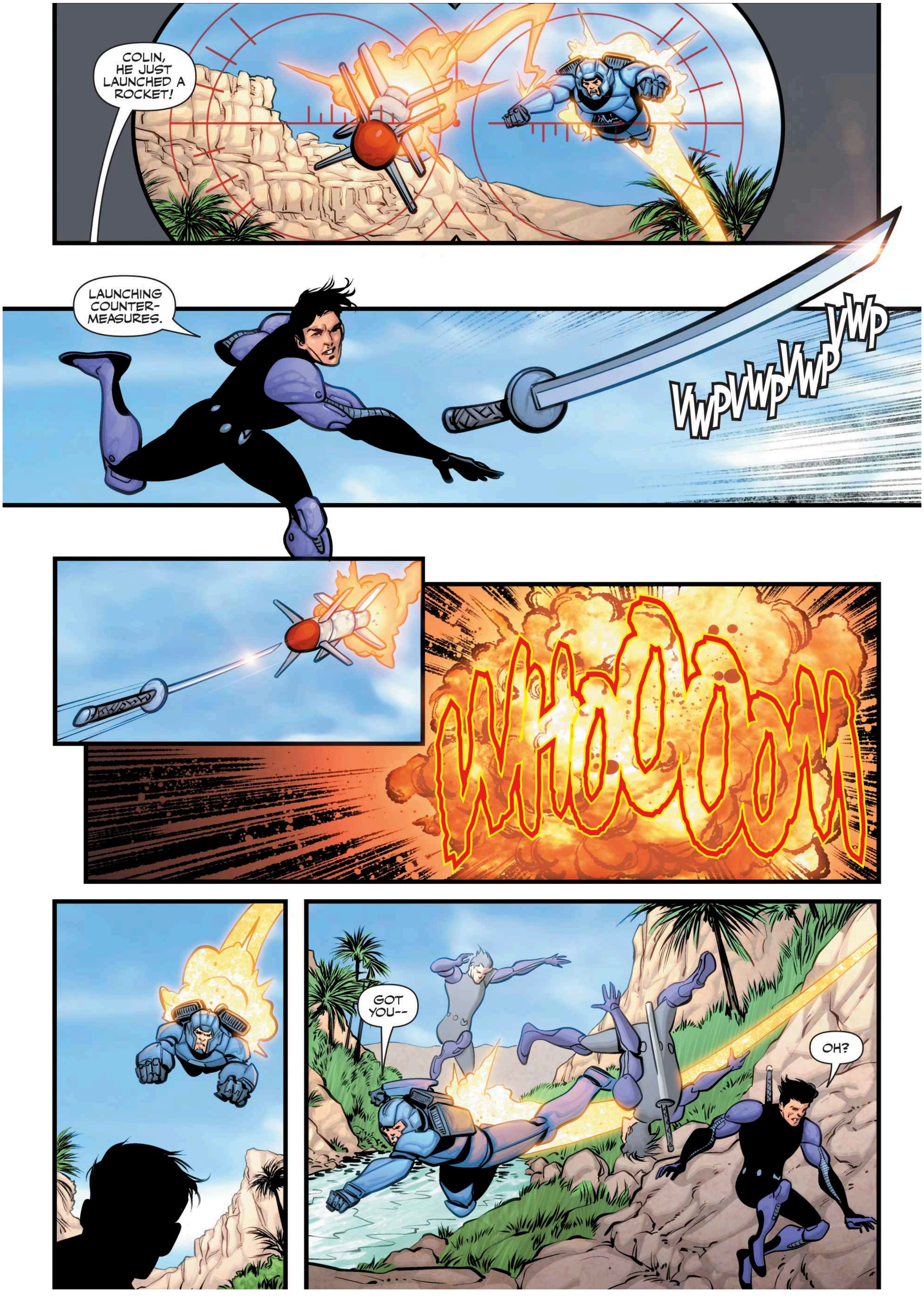
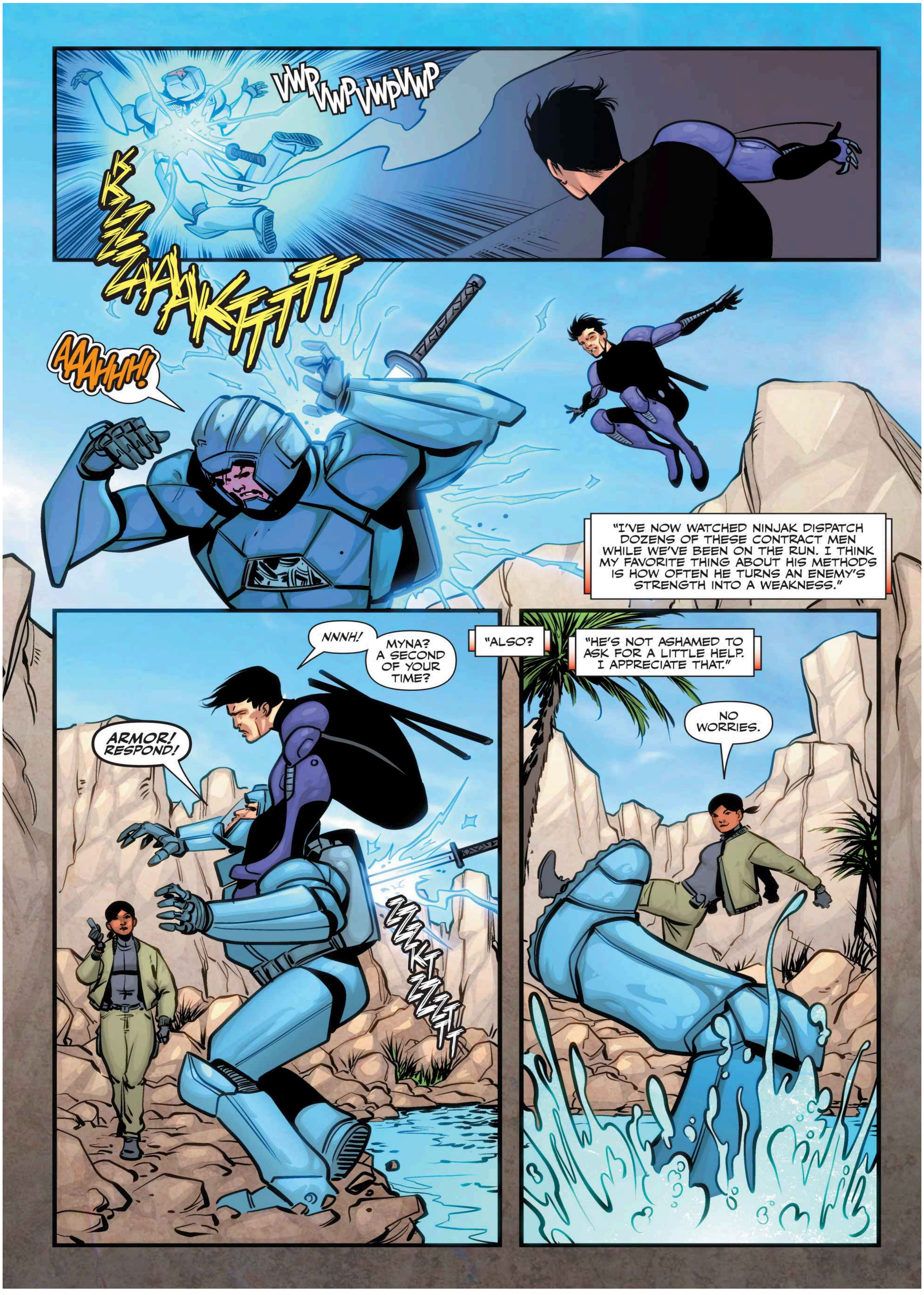
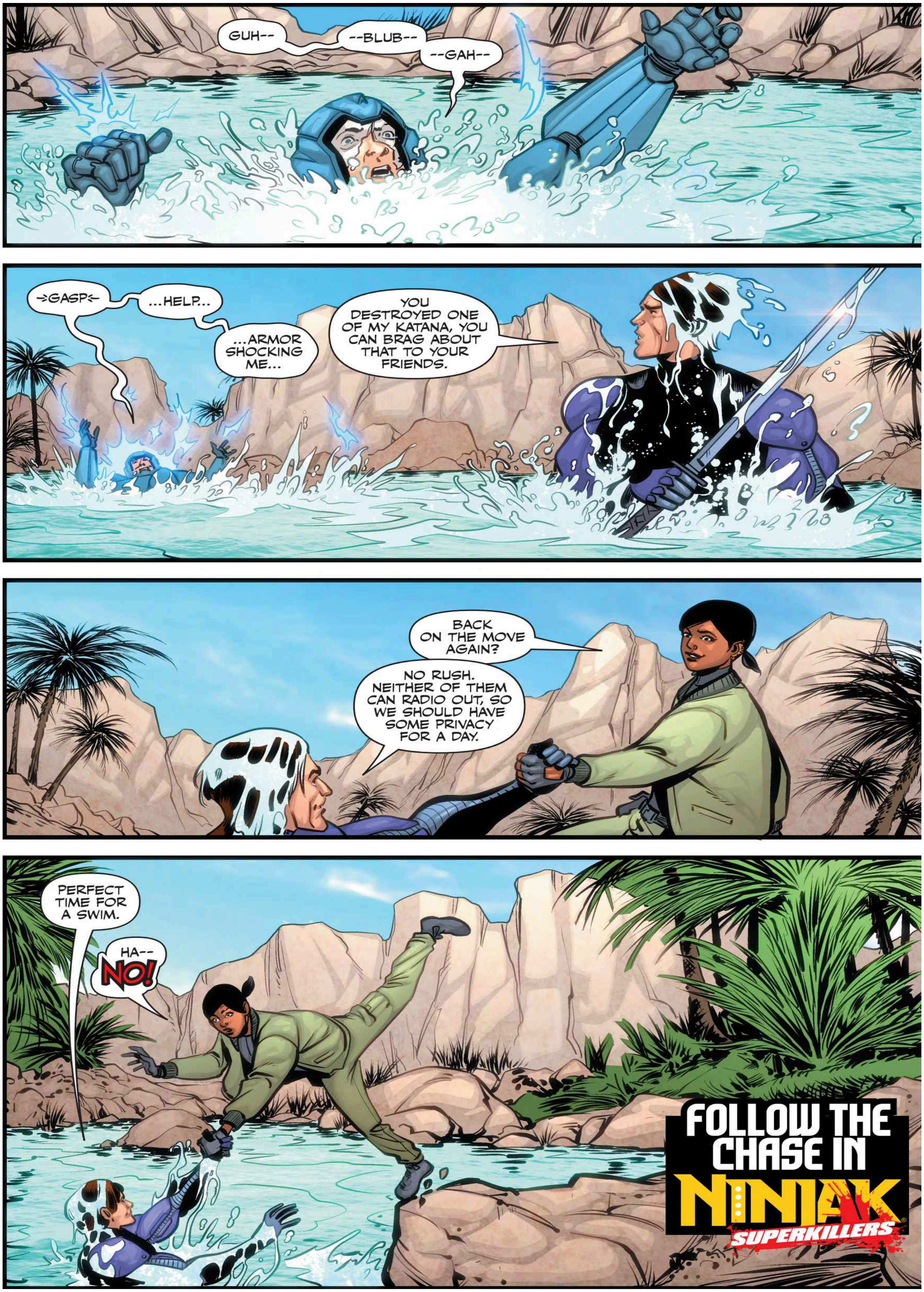
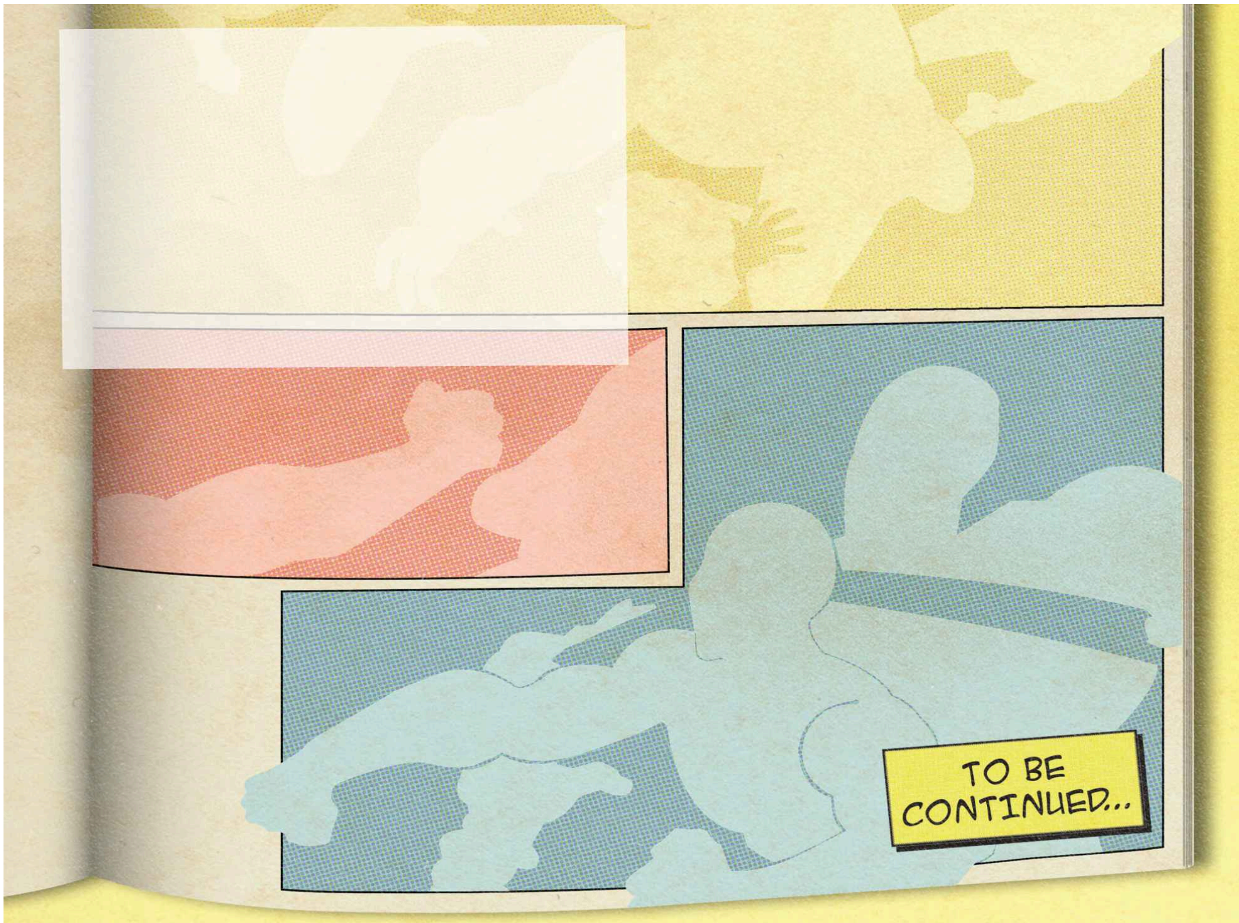

SONGBIRD AGENT MYNA, FIELD ENTRY 3006.
I AM STILL ON THE RUN ACROSS NORTHERN AFRICA WITH COLIN KING, THE OPERATIVE NOW KNOWN WIDELY AS *NINJAK.*
THIS IS BECAUSE ALL MI6 SECRET FILES WERE DUMPED BY THE INFORMATION BROKER GROUP CALLED *DAYLIGHT,* AND HIS COVER IS BLOWN.
WHICH NATURALLY BROUGHT OUT EVERY HITMAN ON THE PLANET TO COLLECT THE MANY BOUNTIES ON HIS HEAD. KING IS DEALING WITH ONE AS I SPEAK.
HHURRRHGH!
DEALT WITH.
LIFE ON THE RUN
PARKER
NORTON
DALHOUSE
SHARPE
HAWKINS
STRANGE, THEY USUALLY ATTACK IN PAIRS.
STILL DO-- LOOK TO ELEVEN O'CLOCK.


COLIN, HE JUST LAUNCHED A ROCKET!
LAUNCHING COUNTER-MEASURES.
VWPVWPVWPVWP
WHOOOOM
GOT YOU--
OH?


VWPVWPVWPVWP
KZZZZAAAKTTTTT
AAAHHH!
"I'VE NOW WATCHED NINJAK DISPATCH DOZENS OF THESE CONTRACT MEN WHILE WE'VE BEEN ON THE RUN. I THINK MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT HIS METHODS IS HOW OFTEN HE TURNS AN ENEMY'S STRENGTH INTO A WEAKNESS."
NNNH!
MYNA? A SECOND OF YOUR TIME?
ARMOR! RESPOND!
ZZZKTZZZZTTT
"ALSO?
"HE'S NOT ASHAMED TO ASK FOR A LITTLE HELP. I APPRECIATE THAT."
NO WORRIES.


GUH--
--BLUB--
--GAH--
>GASP<
...HELP...
...ARMOR SHOCKING ME...
YOU DESTROYED ONE OF MY KATANA, YOU CAN BRAG ABOUT THAT TO YOUR FRIENDS.
BACK ON THE MOVE AGAIN?
NO RUSH. NEITHER OF THEM CAN RADIO OUT, SO WE SHOULD HAVE SOME PRIVACY FOR A DAY.
PERFECT TIME FOR A SWIM.
HA--
NO!
FOLLOW THE CHASE IN
NINJAK
SUPERKILLERS

NINJAK
SUPERKILLERS
VALIANT
PARKER / NORTON / DALHOUSE / SHARPE
FEBRUARY 2023


TO BE CONTINUED...

PREVIEWSworld

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